



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

NHTSA NOW

Volume 8, No. 5

May 3, 2002

NHTSA Holds News Conference to Repeat Rollover Warning on 15-Passenger Vans

April 15, 2002. Washington, DC. NHTSA Administrator Dr. Jeff Runge today issued another warning about 15-passenger vans, widely used by schools and churches, because of an increased rollover risk under certain conditions. A similar warning was issued in 2001.

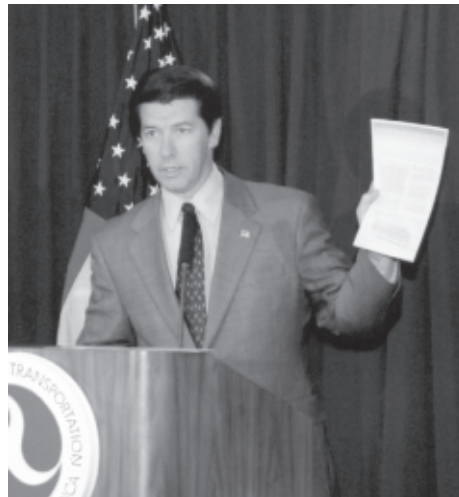
NHTSA research has shown that 15-passenger vans have a rollover risk that increases dramatically as the number of occupants increases from fewer than five to more than ten. In fact, 15-passenger vans (with 10 or more occupants) had a rollover rate in single vehicle crashes that is nearly three times the rate of those that were lightly loaded.

Dr Runge advised that trained, experienced drivers operate 15-passenger vans, and that all occupants wear seat belts at all times.

Eighty percent of those who died in 15-passenger van rollovers in the year 2000 were not buckled up. Wearing seat belts dramatically increases the chances of survival during a rollover crash.

NHTSA reissued the advisory to specifically alert summertime users of 15-passenger

vans. The agency also has prepared a flyer on



NHTSA Administrator Dr. Runge discusses the consumer fact sheet now available on the web.

15-passenger van safety that is available on the web at www.nhtsa.dot.gov, as is a copy of the complete consumer advisory. ■



The news conference was well attended by the media, as evidenced in the numerous television, radio and print stories that followed in the afternoon and evening, and the following morning.

DOT Chief of Staff John A. Flaherty Awards Child Passenger Safety Grant to Colorado

Traffic Deaths for Child Passengers in Colorado Increased in 2001

April 8, 2002. Denver, CO. Chief of Staff John A. Flaherty awarded a grant to Colorado for \$122,223 to broaden the state's child passenger safety (CPS) initiatives. Accepting the grant at a news conference for the state of Colorado was Peggy Catlin, Deputy Executive Director, Colorado Department of Transportation. Attending the media event, on the driveway of Denver Firehouse Number 1, were 35 safety zealots representing health, enforcement, Denver Fire Department, ENCARE, NHTSA, CDOT, TRB Tribal Transportation

Committee and six local media outlets. Most impressive was the 15 motorcycle officers attending with their Harley motorcycles skirting the event.

Mr. Flaherty also added his support for Colorado's participation in the national car seat and seat belt enforcement, named "Click It or Ticket It" mobilization in May.

Facilitating the press conference was NHTSA Regional Administrator Dr. Lou De Carolis with the full support of the Region VIII Staff. At the completion of the media

event, the TV cameras went live on the five o'clock news to capture the proper installation of a car seat. ■



Pictured from left to right: NHTSA Regional Administrator Dr. Lou De Carolis; Peggy Catlin, Deputy Executive Director, CO DOT; U.S. DOT Chief of Staff John Flaherty.

New York Receives TEA-21 Incentive Grant and Reaffirms Support for May Mobilization

April 9, 2002. New York, NY. NHTSA Administrator Dr. Jeff Runge presented New York Governor's Representative Ray Martinez with a symbolic check for \$417,993 representing New York's TEA-21 incentive funds for promoting child safety seat use in the Empire State. The check presentation took place prior to New York's Second Law Enforcement Conference where over 350 law enforcement leaders from the state heard Dr. Runge's keynote address about the NHTSA program priorities and the importance of full and active law enforcement participation in the May 2002 Mobilization. The leadership from the state Chiefs' and Sheriffs' associations pledged their full support to the May Mobilization, saying, "There is no greater priority for our organizations than traffic safety." The new "Buckle-Up New York: Click It Or Ticket!" material is now being distributed in Spanish, "Ponte El Cinturon Nueva York; Abrochar Para No Pagar!" ■



Pictured from left to right: Peter Kehoe, New York State Sheriffs Association Executive Director; Joseph Dominelli, New York State Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Director; NHTSA Administrator Dr. Jeff Runge; New York Governor's Representative Ray Martinez; New York State Police Superintendent Jim McMahon; Region II Administrator Tom Louizou.

April 12, 2002. Charlotte, NC. Fire Station No. 2. NHTSA Administrator Dr. Jeff Runge returned to North Carolina to announce a federal grant of \$201,152 to the state to educate motorists regarding child passenger safety issues.

"About 80 percent of children who are placed in child safety seats are improperly restrained, and adult safety belts do not adequately protect children ages 4 to 8 from injury in a crash," Dr. Runge said. "Through these grants, the states will help parents do a better job."

North Carolina will use the funds to purchase safety seats for distribution to low-income families, to establish more permanent fitting stations in communities across the state, and to support other education and outreach programs. ■



Pictured from left to right: NHTSA Administrator Dr. Jeff Runge; Larry Helms, NC Board of Transportation; and Don Nail, Acting Director, Governor's Highway Safety Program.

April 5, 2002. New York, NY. NHTSA Administrator Dr. Jeff Runge delivered the keynote address at the New York City Traffic Safety Symposium held in conjunction with the New York International Auto show. The Greater NY Auto Dealers Association

continues to sponsor a one-day traffic safety symposium in conjunction with the NY Auto show, the nation's largest. Approximately 150 traffic safety professionals came together to discuss this year's topic of "Dangerous and Distracted Drivers." ■



NHTSA's Chief of Consumer Information, Bill MacLeod, and NHTSA RA Tom Louizou accompany Dr. Runge on a tour of the auto show.

Secretary Mineta Announces California Grant for Child Passenger Safety Education

April 19, 2002. San Jose, CA. Seven television stations, four radio stations, and two newspapers were on hand to cover the press event in San Jose, California when Secretary Mineta presented the State of California with an oversized check for \$730,829 representing California's Child Passenger Protection Education Grant for 2002. Grants such as California's are designed to prevent deaths and injuries to children, educate the public concerning the proper installation of child restraints, and train child passenger safety personnel concerning child restraint use. Among the types of program activities that California funds is the maintenance of a network of child passenger safety coordinators in all of California's 58 counties through the California Department of Health Services.

The press conference was held at the California Highway Patrol's (CHP) San Jose Area Office, which is also a permanent child passenger safety seat fitting station. Also attending and speaking at the event was San Francisco Bay Area Congressman Michael M. Honda. A number of CHP officers, emergency

response personnel, child passenger safety technicians, representatives of the California Department of Health Services, and the local health department-based Safe Communities program were in attendance. Event highlights included the appearance of Pamela Grider and her granddaughter, Jessica Carleval. Ms. Grider recounted how Jessica survived a severe crash unscathed because she was properly restrained in a car seat at the time of the crash. As well, CHP Officer and child passenger safety technician, Erica Gonzalez, provided press conference comments and interviews in Spanish for the members of the Latino press.

The event went smoothly and was well attended due to the efforts of NHTSA's Office of Public and Consumer Affairs, staff of the State and Community Services Office, and Region IX staff Jack Champlin and Rosalind Tianco, along with the Region IX Administrator and event emcee, David Manning. Also assisting in bringing the event together were the public affairs representatives of the California Office of Traffic Safety and the California Highway Patrol. ■



Pictured: Secretary Mineta and Jessica Carleval, who survived a severe crash because she was properly buckled in a car seat at the time of the crash.

Buckle Up America (BUA) Week Targets Teenagers

**By Jennifer Hogan
National Outreach Division, NTS-22**

If you have teenagers at home, you may want to have a talk with them about buckling up before the week of May 20th – 27th. Due in part to low seat belt use, fatality rates for teen drivers are four times higher than for older drivers. Teenagers between the ages of 15 and 18 are at a deadly intersection of age and high-risk behaviors. Each May, *Buckle Up America (BUA) Week* marks a high point in our push for greater seat belt and child safety seat use, and this year's focus is teenagers. In order to send this message home, law enforcement officers will be on special alert for teen drivers and passengers.

The strategies for BUA week are:

- **Click It or Ticket**— Several States will launch a high visibility seat belt enforcement campaign, which will be supported by paid advertisements to let the public know about enforcement efforts. (A successful *Click It or Ticket* campaign in several southeastern States resulted in an overall 9-percentage point increase in seat belt use.)
- **Operation ABC Mobilization**— This year we will see an unprecedented level of law enforcement activity throughout the Nation. Thousands of law enforcement

agencies across the country will mobilize to actively enforce State seat belt and child passenger safety laws.

- **Outreach**— Community organizations can help sustain these increases in seat belt use. To help local leaders encourage seat belt use, a BUA planner kit has been designed

for four distinct viewpoints: youth leaders, public health and medical professionals, communities of faith, and law enforcement youth leaders.

More information on BUA Week and the planner is available on our web site, www.nhtsa.dot.gov, as well as a new Web site, www.buckleupamerica.org. This combination of community involvement and law enforcement will surround Americans with the *Buckle Up America* message and increased seat belt use. ■



NHTSA and the Ad Council's "Buckle Up" billboard on Lankershim Blvd. in the San Fernando Valley.



Recent People Saving People/Teamwork Leadership Challenge Awards

Rae Tyson, OPACA

In recognition for doing an outstanding job in managing the OPACA office during the long term vacancies of both the Director and the Chief of Consumer Affairs during the transition from the Clinton to the Bush Administration.

Renita Cole, NOA Catha Cummings, NTS
Samuel Daniel, NPS Anita Fennell, NRD
Earleen Hughes, NOA Barbara Jackson, NSA
Eugene Peterson, NOA Derrick Lewis, NAD
Margie Maddox, NRD John Lewis, NRD
Denise McNair, NAD Phyllis Alston, NOA
In recognition for the planning and execution of NHTSA's annual African American History Month program held on February 25, 2002.

Gloria Beale, NTS Cynthia McNair, NTS
Jennell Gomez, NTS Arlene Harley, NTS
Rita Ashley, NTS

For their willingness and participation in working with various divisions within Traffic Safety Programs. They worked on major projects that required teamwork, coordination and assisting each other.

Edward Pacchetti, NTS Phillip Gulak, NTS
Cynthia McNair, NTS

Team Members:

Jack Oates, NSC Ann Mitchell, NTS
Linda Cosgrove, NTS Joe Tanning, NTS

In recognition for their dedication and hard work serving as principal participants in the development, preparation and publishing of the 2002 National Seat Belt Report to Congress.

Bonita Twyman, NTS Aaron Henderson, NTS
For their hard work and extra efforts in preparing materials dealing with safety issues for a conference hosted by the Associate Administrator. All this was done at the last minute and with a positive attitude.

Frank Barickman, NRD

In recognition for his dedicated work on the SAVME project and getting the project "up and running" in the Columbus, Ohio area.

Gary Toth, NRD Thomas Roston, NRD
Lori Summers, NPS

For their hard work in performing the evaluation for the procurement of the three Special Crash Investigation contracts. They performed this task outside their normal routine activities.

Nancy Bondy, NRD Seymour Stern, NRD
Ruth Isenberg, NRD

For their hard work in performing the evaluation for the procurement of the two National Automotive Sampling System contracts.

Francica Balicudiong, NTS
Veronica Ferguson, NTS
Michelle Chawlk, NPP
Rita Mantero, NPP

In recognition for the preparation of NHTSA's reauthorization, this group of individuals worked long and hard, past normal working hours, to gather information regarding Section 403 statutory authority.

George Mouchahoir, NPS
Lori Summers, NSA

For dedicated teamwork and quality of service in performing duties beyond their normal assignments to support the preparation of a speech made by the Administrator to the Automotive Occupant Restraint Council.

Donna Glassbrenner Ellen Hertz, NRD
Judith Hilton, NRD Umesh Shankar, NRD

In recognition for their contributions for developing the new NHTSA's and DOT Performance Measures for Overall Fatalities, Alcohol Related Fatalities, Safety Belt Use, and Booster Seat-Age Children.

Aloke Pasad, NRD

For leading a team at VRTC to complete an evaluation of the potential for side air bags to injure out-of-position (OOP) children, and to evaluate a set of industry proposed test procedures for measuring this injury causing potential.

Donna Burke, Region I

For several times volunteering her services over and above her assigned work hours during a period of office staff shortage.

Kristen Allen, Region III

In recognition for her outstanding leadership in planning and facilitating the second Annual Region III, Transporting Children Safety Workshop.

Linda Dodge, Region VIII

For creating a Region VIII Safe Community Newsletter that has continued monthly to this date. This communication link has been an important delivery system for NHTSA to keep safe communities abreast and involved in our safety mission.

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Jack Champlin, Region IX

For taking the lead in implementing the Region IX Partner's meeting.

Brian Huynh, Region IX

For providing expertise in audio-visual technology to the Region IX Partner's meeting.

Gary Hewett, NSA

In recognition for his exemplary performance in conducting a test program in support of a parking brake assembly defects investigation by the Office of Defects Investigation.

Robert Young, NSA

In recognition for giving 16 speeches to various outside groups to better educate those groups to the Office of Defects Investigation's (ODI) mission, capabilities and successes. As a result of Mr. Young's outreach efforts, ODI has received numerous letters of commendation and support.

Chris Santucci, NSA

In recognition for exemplary performance in providing support for a defects investigation regarding ignition switch failure.

Louise Davis, NPP

In recognition for providing valuable assistance to her supervisor and the Associate Administrator by preparing materials for the NHTSA management retreat.

ADMINISTRATION

Denise McNair	Robert Hornicle
Nathaniel Hayes	Jeanette Chow
Kevin Ball	Sharon Scott
David Doernberg	Carolyn Green
Edward Kosek	Theresa Gordon
William Montague	Derrick Lewis
Shirlene Ball	

In recognition for the many tasks that has taken place since the September 11th terrorist attacks. Technical Information Service has been greatly impacted by the mail disruptions in regards to the subsequent anthrax scare.

NHTSA Now is an official publication of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Office of Public and Consumer Affairs.

Kathryn Henry
Editor

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If you would like to submit articles or photographs, please address them to NHTSA/OPACA, attention Kathryn Henry, NOA-42, 400 7th Street, SW, Room 5232, Washington DC 20590. (202) 366-9550. FAX: (202) 366-5962.
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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The most damaging phrase in the language is: It's always been done that way."

—Admiral Grace Hopper, American Navy Officer